Growing Demand of Mulberry and raw Silk

2825. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a growing demand of mulberry and raw silk in the country;

(b) whether the demand of these items has been increasing and the silk industry wants the imported mulberry;

(c) if so, whether Government will increase the import of mulberry and raw silk to meet the growing demand of our silk industry; and

(d) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) The demand for raw silk is increasing and silk industry has been requesting for increasing the availability through imports.

(c) and (d) The facility to import silk duty free for export production is already available under the Duty Exemption Scheme of the Import-Export policy. In addition to this, Government of India has recently decided, in the context of outbreak of pebrine disease which had affected production as well as prices of silk in the country, to import 200 metric tonnes of silk.

Export of Worsted Fabrics

2826. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's share of global export in worsted fabrics has been the lowest;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a great scope of exports of worsted fabrics to foreign countries; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to increase the export of worsted fabrics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir. India's share in the global worsted fabric market is very low.

(b) and (c) There is scope for increasing export of worsted fabrics. The following steps have been taken to increase the export:—

(i) Import of certain machines at concessional rate of duty for modernisation and expansion.

(ii) Arranging of Buyer-Seller Meets.

(iii) Sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams for export promotion.

(iv) Participation in fairs and exhibitions in potential markets abroad.

(v) Providing facility of colour and design forecast one/two years in advance in coordination with International Wool Secretariat.

Amount Owned by NTC to Government of Maharashtra

2827. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Textile Corporation owes to Government of Maharashtra Rs. 6,17,40,189 only, a share of decretal amount;

(b) if so, since when it is due; and

(c) by when they are likely to pay it to the Government of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) The Central Government owns a sum of Rs. 6,17,40,189 to Government of Maharashtra since 1989 towards payment of decretal amount to the Punjab National Bank on account of guarantee given by the Central Government and the Government of Maharashtra for sanctioning working capital to India United Mills under NTC (MN), Bombay.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.